

RECORDS



FIFTH ANNUAL REUNION

of the

DESCENDANTS

of the

IMMIGRANT, JOHN FOLSOM



Exeter, N. H., August 27, 1913

Officers for 1913-1914

President—H. H. FOLSOM, Somerville, Mass.

1st Vice-President—FRED C. FOLSOM, Braintree, Mass.

2d Vice-President—MRS. WILLIAM BRIGHAM, Hudson, Mass.

3d Vice-President—COL. W. W. FOLSOM, Hope, Arkansas

4th Vice-President—MRS. M. BLANCHE WHITE, Winchester, Mass.

Secretary—JAMES E. FOLSOM, Braintree, Mass.

Treasurer—WILLIS H. FOLSOM, Springvale, Me.

Chaplain—REV. JOHN N. SHORT, Cambridge, Mass.

Genealogical Committee—FRANCES A. MATHES, Portsmouth, N. H.

MABEL F. HUTCHINSON, Melrose, Mass.

ELIZABETH K. FOLSOM, Exeter, N. H.

ISRAEL FOLSOM, Lewiston, Me.

LAURA C. HEELY, New York City.

CHARLES G. FOLSOM, South Bend, Ind.

ELLA M. LAMBERT, Toms River, N. J.

ELIZABETH K. HILLS, Marblehead, Mass.

“ He who takes no interest in the history of his ancestors deserves not to be remembered by his posterity.”—Quotations.

The organization of the Descendants of the Immigrant John Folsom, held its fifth successful annual meeting on August 27, 1913 in Unity Hall, Exeter, N. H. The thanks of the association are due Mrs. Elizabeth K. Folsom of Exeter for her untiring efforts in perfecting local arrangements. The program was as follows:—

1. Invocation to Deity, Chaplain Short
2. Annual Address, President Henry H. Folsom
3. Address, "An Ancient Heirloom," Mrs. John H. Gray
4. Report of Genealogical Committee, Mrs. Elizabeth Folsom
5. Sketch of Military Life of Gen. Nathaniel Folsom,
(written by his descendant Mrs. Elizabeth K. Hills and
read by Major Francis L. Hills, a West Point man.)
6. Business; Appointment of Committee on Resolutions and
Committee on Nominations. Report to date, of the
treasurer. Proposed amendment to by-laws suggesting
classification and broadening of membership, offered in
writing by Herbert A. Folsom. (Referred to President
and Secretary to report next year.)
7. Remarks by George W. Folsom of Boston, and receipt of
telegram of congratulations (and regret for absence)
from Mrs. Frances Folsom Preston and her son Richard
Folsom Cleveland who is a student at the famous Phillips
Academy of Exeter.
8. Dinner. Grace by Rev. Harold M. Folsom of Portsmouth,
N. H.
9. Toasts under leadership of Fred C. Folsom.
"Our Association" The President
"Lights and Shadows of Past Reunions"
Exeter 1909 Rev. Milo G. Folsom, Hightstown, N. J.
Hingham 1910 The Secretary
Portland 1911 Mr. Benjamin F. Folsom,
Gleasondale, Mass.
Boston 1912 Chaplain Short
Impressions of 1913 Ernest B. Folsom, Dover, N. H.
"The Future" Hon. Channing Folsom, Newmarket, N. H.
Solos by Mrs. Fred C. Folsom of Braintree and singing of
old songs by all present.
10. Reports of Nominating and Resolutions Committees, (see
list of 1913 officials elected.)
11. Open parliament. Israel Folsom suggested that branch
reunions be held wherever enough Folsoms could congre-
gate, at the time of the yearly meeting, and Milo Folsom
moved that the matter be considered by the executive
committee.
12. Formation of a great ring by joining hands and close of
meeting with prayer by Rev. Milo Folsom and singing of
"God be with you till we meet again."

The President's message, to all members of the Folsom Family, as condensed from his address to those who gathered at Exeter, is one of congratulation for the past, cheer for the present and hope for the future of our organization. He desires to let the light of our meeting shine into every home and to this end advises a free hand in distributing our records, not less than 500 copies to be mailed to Folsoms everywhere regardless of present membership.

He hopes that the society may be of greater help than ever in tracing ancestry and "locating" those in doubt, and that our permanency now being recognized, many who have shown only slight interest may share the privilege of membership and incidentally furnish the committee with complete information for the new genealogical publication.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Springvale, Maine, Oct. 13, 1913.

I herewith make my annual report for all monies received and paid out from November 1. 1912 to October 13, 1913.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand per last report, ...	\$112.62	
Received for dues	72.00	
Received for dinners, Exeter	51.00	\$235.62

EXPENDITURES.

Paid F. E. Bacon & Co., printing	\$1.75	
James E. Folsom, Postage, exp. etc. ..	22.50	
Metaphysical Club, rent 1912 meeting	10.00	
G. W. Prescott & Co., printing reports	40.00	
Frank Crummett, Caterer, Exeter	58.25	132.20
Balance on hand Oct. 13, 1913		\$103.42

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIS H. FOLSOM,

Treasurer

Since the 1912 report dues have been paid by the following;
Ida O. Folsom, W. B. Folsom, Elizabeth K. Folsom, Gertrude F.
Howard, Herbert A. Folsom, Charles E. Folsom, W. W. Hardy,
Josephine B. Edgerly, W. A. Nichols, Elizabeth K. Hills, Mrs.
DeElsie Whitman, Mrs. C. O. Howe, Eugene Folsom, Mira Fol-
som, Mary F. Short, Laura C. Heely, Fred C. Folsom, Gwladys
S. Folsom, Emma Cram, Mrs. F. M. White, Miss Kate Folsom,
Milo G. Folsom, Eva T. Folsom, George L. Folsom, Elizabeth B.
Harris, Mrs. John H. Gray, Mabel F. Hutchinson, Mrs. Mary F.
Parker, Susan A. Folsom, Ernest B. Folsom, Helen F. Greeley,
William H. Folsom, Elizabeth Taylor Folsom, Mary Folsom
Geason, Viola Folsom Stratton, B. F. Folsom, Sarah E. Folsom,
Harold M. Folsom, Marion W. Folsom, Sarah Folsom Walker,
Mrs. Annie Watton, M. A. Harvey, George I. Folsom, Wallace
Folsom, Frances A. Mathes, Susan Mathes, Israel Folsom, James
E. Folsom, Leonard F. Smith, Herman L. Smith, Frances E.
Smith, Annie E. Melcher Lawrence, L. H. Folsom, Abbie S. Fol-
som, Belle A. Cram, Channing Folsom, Ruth Fogg Folsom, Irod
J. B. Folsom, Frank M. White, Ida M. Welsh, W. W. Folsom,
Elizabeth S. Hall, Annie F. Folsom.

REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE.

(re-arranged geographically)

Total number registered 85.

Lois A. Osgood, Berwick, Maine.
Abbie E. Osgood, Berwick, Me.
Willis H. Folsom, Springvale, Maine.
William Folsom, Veazie, Maine.
Mrs. Eliza A. Howe, Bangor, Maine.
Orrin C. Folsom, Orrington, Maine.
Israel Folsom, Lewiston, Maine.
Channing Folsom, Newmarket, N. H.
Ruth F. Folsom, Newmarket N. H.
George W. Pendergast, Newmarket, N. H.
Dora J. Pendergast, Newmarket, N. H.
Mary B. Pendergast, Newmarket, N. H.
M. A. Harvey, Epping, N. H.
Emma J. Cram, Raymond, N. H.
Belle A. Cram, Raymond, N. H.
Emily S. Folsom, Newfields, N. H.
W. W. Hardy, Dover, N. H.
Ernest B. Folsom, Dover, N. H.
Alice I. F. Towle, Dover, N. H.
Elizabeth L. Towle, Dover, N. H.
Eleanor D. Towle, Dover, N. H.
Susan A. Folsom, Dover, N. H.
Elizabeth K. Folsom, Exeter, N. H.
Emma F. Folsom, Exeter, N. H.
Mrs. Mary F. Folsom, Exeter, N. H.
Fannie F. Cooper, Exeter, N. H.
Elizabeth T. Folsom, Exeter, N. H.
William H. Folsom, Exeter, N. H.
Herman L. Smith, Exeter, N. H.
Leonard F. Smith, Exeter, N. H.
Frances E. Smith, Exeter, N. H.
Ida R. T. Smith, Exeter, N. H.
Elizabeth G. Rollins, Exeter, N. H.
Charles F. Folsom, Exeter, N. H.
Ella O. Alger, Exeter, N. H.
Hattie F. Carlisle, Exeter, N. H.
Anna F. Carlisle, Exeter, N. H.
George A. Folsom, Wolfboro, N. H.
Rev. Harold M. Folsom, Portsmouth, N. H.
George L. Folsom, Manchester, N. H.

Henry H. Folsom, Somerville, Mass.
Mrs. John H. Gray, Somerville, Mass.
Mary H. F. Ackroyd, Somerville, Mass.
Mary R. Folsom, Somerville, Mass.
Mabel F. Hutchinson, Melrose, Mass.
Francis L. Hills, Marblehead, Mass.
Mrs. Elizabeth K. Hills, Marblehead, Mass.
Frank M. White, Winchester, Mass.
M. Blanche F. White, Winchester, Mass.
Miss Kate Folsom, Tewksbury, Mass.
Eugene L. Folsom, Waltham, Mass.
Mira S. Folsom, Waltham, Mass.
Mrs. George A. Hayes, Brookline, Mass.
James E. Folsom, Braintree, Mass.
Frederick C. Folsom, Braintree, Mass.
Gwladys G. Folsom, Braintree, Mass.
Amanda F. Cochrane, Haverhill, Mass.
Mrs. J. H. Jacques, Haverhill, Mass.
Eva T. Folsom, Medford, Mass.
Rev. John N. Short, Cambridge, Mass.
Mrs. Mary F. Short, Cambridge, Mass.
Mary F. Gleason, Gleasondale, Mass.
Albert H. Gleason, Gleasondale, Mass.
Benjamin F. Folsom, Gleasondale, Mass.
Mrs. Mary Folsom, Gleasondale, Mass.
Marion W. Folsom, W. Acton, Mass.
Viola Stratton, Hudson, Mass.
Mary F. Parker, Bridgewater, Mass.
Irod J. B. Folsom, New Bedford, Mass.
Mrs. Susan F. Walker, Amesbury, Mass.
Edwin A. Harris, Dorchester, Mass.
Elizabeth B. Harris, Dorchester, Mass.
Susan M. Bickford, Dorchester, Mass.
Charles E. Folsom, Dorchester, Mass.
Mrs. Annie Folsom, Dorchester, Mass.
George W. Folsom, E. Boston, Mass.
Mrs. George W. Folsom, E. Boston, Mass.
Mrs. Annie E. Lawrence, Boston, Mass.
William H. Folsom, Burlington, Vt.
Mrs. L. C. Heely, New York City.
Mrs. A. M. Mitchell, Little Falls, N. Y.
A. Folsom Mitchell, Little Falls, N. Y.
Rev. Milo G. Folsom, Hightstown, N. J.
William T. Folsom, Columbus, Miss.
Mrs. William T. Folsom, Columbus, Miss.

ADOPTED AUGUST 25, 1909.

ARTICLE I.

The name shall be The Organization of the Descendants of the Immigrant, John Folsom.

ARTICLE II

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the social, historical and genealogical interests of its members.

ARTICLE III

Section 1. The officers shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Chaplain, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and Genealogist.

Section 2. The duties of the officers shall be such as usually pertain to their respective offices.

ARTICLE IV

Committees

Section 1. The executive committee shall consist of the officers.

Section 2. Other committees shall be such as are appointed by the executive committee or such as are elected by the organization.

ARTICLE V.

Membership and Dues

Section 1. Membership. Descendants of John Folsom, and their husbands or wives, shall be eligible to membership.

Section 2. Dues. Dues shall be such as the executive committee shall prescribe.

(Decided that \$1.00 be the annual dues.)

ARTICLE VI.

Meetings

There shall be an annual meeting and its time and place shall be decided upon by the Executive committee.

ARTICLE VII

Amendments

Amendments may be made by a majority vote of the organization at any annual meeting.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS

Membership. Members in good standing shall consist of Honorary members, Life members, Subscription members and males over twenty years of age who shall pay the prescribed dues in any current year. All women and children shall be en-

titled to membership free from the payment of annual dues, if eligible to membership.

Honorary members shall be those whom the society at any annual meeting shall elect by unanimous vote. They become life members and pay no annual dues.

Life members become such upon the payment of twenty-five dollars. They shall receive an engraved certificate of membership signed by the president, treasurer and secretary.

Subscription members pay into the treasury five dollars annually in five successive payments, when they receive certificate of Life membership.

All Honorary, Life, Subscription and Annual payment members are entitled to notices and publications free,—all other members shall receive such only upon the payment of \$1.00 per annum.

RESOLUTION

We, the descendants of the Immigrant, John Folsom, assembled at Exeter, N. H. at our fifth annual reunion, on Aug. 27, 1913, have learned of the death, since our last re-union of several members of our family. We feel sure that all who bear the name of "Folsom," or descended from a Folsom, are descendants from our common ancestor, John Folsom. These descendants now number hundreds, scattered throughout our country. It necessarily follows that during the year many of our family are called from their earthly labor to join the larger family circle on the "other side." We, as the representatives of the Folsom family and as an association, feel keenly the passing of so many of our members.

Whereby, be it resolved that we, as an association hereby express our sense of loss and extend our love and sympathy to the bereaved members of their immediate family at the removal of these loved ones, our brethren and friends. We rejoice that those who have departed have left such rich memories of sterling qualities and lovable character, and hope these memories will live long and bring comfort to the survivors in their bereavement.

We recommend that the Secretary send these resolutions to those who are nearest and dearest to the departed, expressing the regret, love and sympathy of our family association.

CHANNING FOLSOM

MILO G. FOLSOM

ERNEST B. FOLSOM

IN MEMORIAM.

Stephen B. Wescott, Blue Hill, Maine, died October 24, 1912, husband of Mary Abbie Folsom.

Mary (Reed) Folsom, Somerville, Mass., second wife of Josiah D. Folsom of Stark, Maine and Somerville, Mass., died January 17, 1913.

Charles Folsom died at Monrøe, Maine, January 17, 1913 aged 80 years.

Mehitable A., widow of Captain Hawley Folsom, died in Falmouth, Maine, January 28, 1913 aged 91 years.

Abby Pillsbury, widow of Benjamin M. Folsom, late of Wayland, Mass., died August 11, 1913, aged 86 years.

Herbert Folsom, son of late Dr. William Folsom of Newmarket, N. H. died in Amarillo, Texas, Oct. 3, 1912, aged 62 years.

Arthur Clark Folsom died June 5, at Brockton, Mass., aged 57 years, born Jan. 13, 1856 in Lowell, Mass., a son of Jonathan P. Folsom.

Guy Folsom Newhall, died June 5, 1913 at Dedham, Mass., aged 42 years.

Amanda, widow of Nathaniel Folsom, died July 18, 1913 in Monticello, Maine, aged 81 years.

Henry Folsom of Burlington, Maine, died suddenly in Millinocket on July 17, 1913.

REPORT OF GENEALOGICAL COMMITTEE.

By Elizabeth K. Folsom

ISRAEL FOLSOM (2)

Since the last re-union, in the Annual Report of which was given all the then known facts concerning Israel the son of John, I have learned through the kind help of Mr. Clarence A. Torrey, of Chicago, who, some years ago, in making researches for a branch of the Gilman family, came across some facts which explain why no better records of Israel were to be found in the Exeter books; also a little additional light on Nathaniel.

In the first place I will explain a little about this settlement in New Jersey, that we may see why Israel and Nathaniel should go there.

In the summer of 1666, the then Governor of N. J., Philip Carteret, sent agents into New England to publish the unsurpassed privileges to be granted all settlers in East Jersey, provided sixty or more families were located there within three years. He offered great inducements in the way of land grants, allowed perfect freedom of conscience in religious beliefs, and promised every safeguard for their personal liberty. During that summer several families from Newbury, Mass., settled at Woodbridge and induced their New Hampshire friends to come to the Raritan river, near by. In fact these N. H. pioneers bought their Jersey property of these Massachusetts friends and moved there in the fall of 1666. This territory they named the New Piscataqua, which embraced about 40,000 acres, the deed for which was dated Dec. 18, 1666, made in the name of John Martin, Hopewell Hull Charles Gilman and Hugh Dunn. And to this day in this same New Jersey township are small villages named for the towns on the Piscataqua from which they emigrated, viz: New Dover, New Durham, New Market, all in the original New Piscataqua township, Middlesex county.

Among these New Hampshire pioneers in New Jersey we find the names of Charles and John Gilman, and Israel and Nathaniel Folsom. Mr. Torrey sent me all the references to Israel and Nathaniel, which I give below:

ISRAEL FOLSOM.

1677, June 7, Fulsham, Foulsham, Israel of New Piscataway, bachelor, Administration on the estate of, granted to his kinsman John Gilman. N. J. Archives, 1. ser. XXI, p. 40.

N. J. Archives I Series, Vol. 23, p. 176

1677, June 7. Letters of administration on the estate of Israel Fulsham, of New Piscataway, (bachelor) dec'd, granted to his kinsman John Gilman.

N. J. Archives I ser. v. 21, p 40

1677, April 6. Inventory of estate of Israel Foulsham of New Piscataway, made by Francis Drake and John Smally jun (L 54.13.5)

N. J. Archives I ser. v. 21, p. 40

1678 May 14. ffolsham, Israel of New Piscataway. Account of the estate of, by the administrator thereof, his kinsman John Gilman of Piscataway, showing payments to Dr. Greenland, George Drake, Hugh Dun, Mr. Bonham, Benjamin Hull, Mr. Doell John Langstafe and Leonard Headley, bill of Haman Edwards not yet paid. Middlesex Wills.

N. J. Archives I ser, v. 23, p. 170

ISRAEL FOLSOM.

Deeds.

1685, June 26. Deed. Elizabeth Fitzrandolph to her son John Fitzrandolph for 1.2 houselots, 30 acres, E. a small brook N. Nicholas Bonhame, S. John Gillman, formerly Israel Foulshame, W. a small spring, coming from John Martine senior: 2,60 acres uplands (no ref. to Folsoms or Gilmans in describing this tract)

N. J. Archives I ser. v. 21. p. 121

1686-7, Feb. 10: Deed. Israel ffolshame of New Piscataway to John Gillman of the same place, for all his lands, meadows, etc in said town.

N. J. Archives I ser. v. 21, p. 121

1687, Oct. 12. Deed. Nathaniel ffolshame of _____ in Piscataway River, carpenter, to Benjamin Fitzrandolph, for 30 acres of upland in said Town of Piscataway, S. Raraton River, W. a small brook, N. John Fitzrandolph, E. the Old Mill Brook; also all claims to other land due him or his brother Israel by right of first settlement in the town.

N. J. Archives I ser. v. 21, p. 121

1688 May 10. Patent to John Fitzrandolph—two houselots 30 acres, E. a small brook, N. Nicholas Bonham, S. John Gillman, formerly Israel ffolshame, W. a small spring.

N. J. Archives 1 ser. v. p. 123

1697 July 20. Deed. Benjamin Fitzrandolph of Piscataway, carpenter, and wife Sarah to John Royse of Roysefield, Summersette Co. 30 a. in Piscataway, E. a small brook, N. Nicholas Bonhame, S. John Gillman, formerly Israel Foulsham. W. a small spring coming from John Martine's junior.

N. J. Archives I ser. v. 21, p. 121

MAJOR-GENERAL NATHANIEL FOLSOM.

1726—1790.

NATHANIEL (4) FOLSOM (Jonathan 3, John 2, John) was the third son and fourth child of JONATHAN (3) FOLSOM of Exeter and ANNA LADD, his wife, born in Exeter in 1726:

His father was a farmer and dying when Nathaniel was but 14 years of age and leaving a family of 12 children, we can imagine that the days of his boyhood were short and that he, with his elder brothers, early assumed the cares and responsibilities of manhood. This doubtless developed the strong, manly character he displayed in after life and the keen clear-headed judgment that was relied upon by his state in the eventful days preceding and during the Revolution.

Few young men in those days were not imbued with a military spirit. It had come down to Nathaniel from his earliest ancestors, both on his father's and on his mother's side. His grandfather, NATHANIEL LADD, had rendered active service in King Philip's War—and, 15 years later, on the 22nd of July, 1690, while serving in King William's War, he received wounds in the fight with the Indians at Maquoit near Cape Elizabeth, Maine, from which he died on August 11th at Exeter.

NATHANIEL also heard exciting stories in his boyhood of the gallantry, suffering and death of many by the name of FOLSOM and he became a genuine soldier and joined the militia at an early age, rising to the rank of Colonel.

On the 7th of September, 1755, NATHANIEL FOLSOM was in garrison at Fort Edward, the Captain of an Exeter Company of Colonel Joseph Blanchard's New Hampshire Regiment. He was then but 29 years of age and upon a call for more troops at Crown Point, had raised this company. The commanding officer of the New England Forces had cut a wagon road from Fort Edward to the Post on Lake George 13 miles distant where General William Johnson established his camp but without fortifications, and without adequate scouting to locate the French and Indians. There General Johnson's force was surprised in an attack by General Dieskau, but fought fiercely, Dieskau withdrawing in the early afternoon. A descent of the enemy upon Col. Blanchard's troops at Fort Edward was then expected and two "expresses" were sent from the lake with warning and orders to retire within the Fort, which failed to reach him.

Various historians have fallen into errors in their narratives of what followed but the accurate statement is given in a letter from Nathaniel Folsom to the Rev. Dr. Samuel Langdon of Portsmouth, which is now in the collection of the Massachusetts Historical Society. This modest story with its curious details of fighting in the forest where each man took to his tree, is not only a valuable state document but is a very interesting Folsom relic worth preserving by the association and I believe those present will be glad to have it read.

"Exeter, March 27th, 1756

"Reverend Sir:

As you desire me to give you a short narrative of the skirmish lately had near Lake George, I have now to inform you that, on the 8th of September 1755 Colonel Blanchard ordered me to detach a small scout upon discoveries which I immediately did under the command of my lieutenant, Jeremiah Gilman who marched up between Hudson's River and the wagon road that leads to Lake George about two miles and a half, where they discovered one Adams lying by the wagon road, dead and scalped, and several wagons almost burnt up.

Upon which discovery they returned and made report.

Colonel Blanchard immediately rallied his forces and sent me out with the command of 50 men: with orders to bring in the dead man (Adams) and to make what discoveries I could; whereupon we marched to the spot and found Adams and found also eleven wagons almost consumed. Immediately sent a party of twenty men under the command of Lieutenant Abbott to scout two miles up towards the lake, whilst I, with the remainder scouted about the place where the enemy had made such destruction. And finding bread and meat and many other things scattered about where our enemy had encamped the night before, and the wagon road being full of moguson tracks, we supposed there was a great number of French and Indians near us.

Upon which we thought it most advisable to return as soon as we could and make report; but while we were tying up the dead man to carry him into the Fort we heard the discharge of a great gun at the Lake and soon after the continual report of others.

I called together our officers to advise whether we should go to the assistance of our friends at the lake whom we supposed to be engaged in battle; upon which officers and soldiers unanimously manifested their willingness to go. At that instant I was told that there were more men coming who were presently with us. They were a company of the York Regiment who, when detached at Fort Edward were commanded by Captain McGennes.

I told him our army was attacked at the lake, that we had determined to go to their assistance and asked him to go with us. Upon which he answered that his orders were to come to that spot, make what discoveries he could, return and make report. I told him that was my orders but that this being an extraordinary case I was not afraid of being blamed by our superior officers for helping our friends in distress. Whereupon he turned and ordered his company to march back again. I then told our officers that as our number was so small—but, as it were, a handful—I thought it most advisable to return to the fort and add to our number and then proceed to the lake. We marched, soon overtook the Yorkers and ran by them a little distance, where we met near fifty of our men running towards us. I asked "What tidings?" They said they thought we had

been engaged and that Colonel Blanchard had sent them to our assistance.

Whereupon we immediately concluded to go to the lake; but not having orders therefor as before hinted, I despatched Lieutenant Rivers with some few men with orders to go to the fort and to acquaint Colonel Blanchard with what we had discovered and of our design to go to the lake. Meanwhile Captain McGennes marched forward. We followed for about two miles but as I thought they marched too slow and kept out no advance guard (by means of which we might be enclosed in the ambush of the Canadians) I proposed to our New Hampshire men to go by them. But one of our officers told me he thought it not best to go before the Yorkers, for that he was more afraid of them than of the enemy.

Upon which I sent Captain McGennes' lieutenant forward to tell him to march faster or else to stop and let us go by them.

But he making no return, I sent one of our own men forward to tell him the same errand and also to set out advance guards for fear of ambushments. He returned me an answer that all I required of him he would do. We marched on until we came within half mile of the place where we began the battle; when Captain McGennes and company started nine Indians, who run up the wagon road from us, upon which Captain McGennes stopt. I, seeing them halt (being on a plain) ordered our men to move forward and pass by them. As soon as I came up with McGennes, I asked the reason of his stopping, which he told me was the starting of the Indians. I then moved forward and we ran about 80 rods and discovered a Frenchman running from us on the left. Some of us chased him about a gunshot, fired at him, but, fearing ambushments, we turned into the wagon road again and traveled a few rods, when we discovered a number of French and Indians about two or three gunshots from us.

Then we made a loud huzza and followed them up a rising ground and then met a large body of French and Indians, on whom we discharged our guns briskly, till we had exchanged shots about four or five times. When I was called upon to bring up the Yorkers, who I thought had been up with us before but finding them two or three gunshots back, I ordered them up to our assistance. And though but a small number of them came up, we still continued the engagement and soon caught a French lieutenant and an Indian, who informed us that we had engaged upward of 800.

Knowing the smallness of our numbers (being in all but 143 men), we fixed ourselves to fight in the best manner we could do; and seeing our enemies continually recruited by fresh hands, not only in front but on both wings, it gave every one of us (that could fight) occasion to exercise and exert ourselves. After being closely engaged for about 3-4 of an hour, they killed two of our men and wounded several more on our left wing, where they had gained a great advantage of us.

Which, with our being very much tired and fatigued, occasioned us to retreat a little way back; but finding by our retreat

we were likely to give the enemy a great advantage, we rallied again in order to recover the ground we had lost, and thinking that if we quitted the ground we should lose our greatest advantage, about 15 or 20 of us ran up the hill at all hazard. Which we had no sooner done but the enemy fired upon us vigorously; and then, seeing us coming upon them (we being charged and they discharged) they run and gave us the ground.

Whereupon we all shouted with one voice and were not a little encouraged. In this skirmish Ensign Jonathan Folsom was shot through the shoulder and several others wounded. At every second of their discharge during the engagement we made huzzas as loud as we could but not to be compared with the yells of our enemies, which seemed to be the yellings of devils rather than men.

A little before sunsetting I was told that a party of the Yorkers were going to leave us, which surprised me. I looked and saw them in the wagon road with packs on their backs. I went to them and asked where they were going. They said to Fort Edward. I told them they would sacrifice their own lives and ours too. They answered they would not stay there to be killed by the damned Indians after dark but would go off by daylight. Captain Moore and Lieutenant Abbott and myself tried to persuade them to tarry but to no purpose till I told them that the minute they attempted to march from us I would order our New Hampshire men to discharge upon them. Soon after which they throwed off their packs and we went to our posts again. Upon my return to my tree, where I had fought before, I found a neat's tongue (as I thought) and a French loaf, which, happening in so good a season, I gave myself to eat of; and seeing my lieutenant at a little distance, much tired and beat out, I told him if he would venture to come to me, I would give him something to comfort him. He came to me and told me I was eating a horse's tongue. I told him it was so good that he had never eat anything better in his life. I presently saw some Yorkers handing about a keg of brandy, which I took part of and distributed amongst the men, which revived us all to that degree that I imagined we fought better than ever we did before.

Between sunset and the shutting in of daylight we called to our enemies: Told them we had a thousand come to our assistance; that we should now have them immediately in our hands; and thereupon made a great shouting and beat our drums. Upon which they drew off upon the left wing but stood it on the front and right wing till daylight was in and then retreated and run off. Then we began to get things ready to march to the lake when Providence sent us three wagon horses upon which we carried in six wounded men; made a bier and carried one on, led some and carried some on our backs. We found six of our men killed or mortally wounded so that they died in a few days and fourteen others wounded and shot through their clothes, hats, etc. With much difficulty we persuaded the Yorkers to go with us to the lake.

In about an hour after the battle was over we marched and sent two men forward to discover who were inhabi-

tants at the lake. Who met us and told us all was well. Whereupon we marched into the camp and told the army what we had done. As soon as they understood by us that we had drove the enemy off and made a clear passage for the English between forts, the whole army shouted for joy, like the shouting of a great host.

We carried our wounded to Dr. Putnam's tent, where by him they were tenderly dressed. Meanwhile I took a pilot to pilot me to Gen. Johnson's tent; but being much tired and fatigued I was obliged to turn in to Colonel Guttredge's tent for refreshment, where they told me the general was wounded; and, it being past midnight, they desired me to tarry till morning, which I did, and then I waited on the General and told him where we came from, the occasion of our coming, what we had done, and that we were destitute of comfortable things, having left our coats, blankets, etc., at Fort Edward, and asked leave to return again to Fort Edward. The general kindly told me that such as the camp afforded we should have but no liberty to return till the next Wednesday. But on Tuesday morning the Mohocks having heard overnight that we had left a great quantity of packs, plunder, etc., upon the spot where we fought, started very early to go and get it. Which we imagining when we saw them run off, it made our English blood boil, seeing we could not have liberty to go ourselves. However, we were obliged to be easy with a promise of having our packs (which we never got to this day.) In about three hours the Mohocks returned with as much plunder as they could carry on their backs.

On Wednesday we marched to Fort Edward with orders for Colonel Blanchard to march his regiment on Thursday to Lake George. We got to the fort a little after sunset with the joyful news of Lake George being in possession of King George; and were received as joyfully as though we had risen from the dead. On Thursday we marched with the rest of our regiment from Fort Edward to Lake George, where we arrived a little after sunset and joined the army. In the fight which began about 4 of the clock afternoon and ended with the daylight, it was generally thought we killed and mortally wounded upward of 100 Frenchmen and Indians.

Thus, sir, I have given you a narrative, as my memory furnishes me, of most of the facts (worthy your notice) in the aforesaid engagement. In perusing of which, if you receive any satisfaction it will completely recompense me for the trouble and pains taken therein by

Your most hble serv't.

NATHANIEL FOLSOM.

To the Rev'd Mr. Langdon,
In Portsmouth."

Mr. F. B. Sanborn in his biographical tribute of 1904 to Dr. Langdon says:—"It is singular that this important account of the final fight with Baron Dieskau's attacking army—the most

detailed one ever written as far as known—though in manuscript nearly a century and a half has never been used by any of the historians." The commander of the famous scouting party that fought so gallantly that day was New Hampshire's Nathaniel Folsom, captain of a company of Exeter men. This was an early experience in field service which better fitted him for the State's military counsels in later years.

Returning to Exeter after this signal victory, Captain Folsom again took up the peaceful pursuits of life. He had married young and when he joined the expedition against Crown Point his little daughter DEBORAH, who afterward became my great grandmother was but two years of age. Captain Folsom's wife was DOROTHY—the daughter of Richard SMITH, a Tanner of Exeter, and MARY MATTOON his wife. She was a direct descendant of two COLONIAL GOVERNORS, Gov. Thomas DUDLEY and Gov. JOHN WINTHROP. She was the same age of NATHANIEL, born in 1726.

We will leave him for a time fulfilling his duties both to his family and his town for he was called to various offices of confidence and trust, and in military service had risen to the rank of Colonel.

He had learned a trade but was also engaged in the lumber business to which many of the Folsoms inclined. It was a profitable business too and as the store naturally followed the lumber camp NATHANIEL soon became a merchant.

Now we come to the second important period in his life, the period preceding and during the REVOLUTION.

So ardent were his sympathies with the public cause, so pronounced and fearless his patriotism, so constant his participation in all the moving events of the time leading to the freedom of the Colonies, that he lost his commission as Colonel under the Crown.

He participated in the raid which stripped Fort William and Mary of its arms and ammunition which was the first overt act of resistance to the British government in New England four months before the battle of Lexington.

At a meeting of the Deputies appointed by the several parishes in the Province of New Hampshire, held at Exeter, July 21, 1774 for the appointment of Delegates, on behalf of the province of New Hampshire, to an American Congress, Colonel Nathaniel Folsom and Major John Sullivan, Esquires, were elected. This first American Congress assembled at the Carpenter's Hall in PHILADELPHIA September 5th, 1774 and the Delegates from New Hampshire were first on the list of members also in an address to the King signed by them all. The "GRAND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS," so called, unanimously agreed upon 14 "Articles of Association" to be submitted to the several colonies and Provinces of North America for adoption.

Returning from Philadelphia, Colonel Folsom was called by the Provincial Congress of April 21, 1775, to consult on what measures shall be thought most expedient to be taken at this

alarming crisis. On the 8th of this month, the Massachusetts Bay Provincial Congress at Concord had resolved to request the four New England governments to co-operate with them by furnishing their respective quotas for their general defence; and New Hampshire, as soon as possible, raised its quota of troops as requested.

The N. H. Provincial Congress in session at Exeter on 20th of May 1775 voted that Colonel Folsom be one of a "Committee of Safety" then formed: and on the 22nd of same month voted "that Colonel Nathaniel Folsom be appointed to take the general command of the men that may be raised in this government for this season." on the 3rd of June, 1775, voted "that General Folsom as Brigadier-General and first commander of the N. H. forces, under the Commander-in-Chief of the NEW ENGLAND ARMY, be allowed the same wages as a Brigadier General shall receive in the Massachusetts service * * and that he have no particular regiment of his own, but equally command all the N. H. Forces." and, on the 30th of the same month, voted that General Folsom's Commission be dated the 24th of May and that he rank as a MAJOR-GENERAL. He was then 49 years of age. This N. H. Congress also voted on June 3rd, 1775 "that John STARK be the Colonel of the First Regiment."

Medford, June 22, 1775

General Folsom reports to the N. H. Committee of Safety in Exeter, his arrival and that he immediately waited on the Captain-General who chose to fix the New Hampshire Troops in this quarter and Winter Hill. He also reports the gallant behavior of the N. H. Troops in the Battle of Bunker Hill and the death of Doctor Joseph Warren, a general.

Medford, June 23, 1775

General Folsom reports to the N. H. Committee of Safety, that to comply with orders of the Captain-General to him, he sent orders to Colonels Stark and Read. "Colonel Read immediately obeyed the order," but he reports the insubordination of Colonel Stark who absolutely refused to comply with his order and did "not intend to be under any subordination to any person appointed by the Congress of New Hampshire to the general command of N. H. Troops." "I have tried all conciliatory methods both by personal conversation and the mediation of friends but without effect: in consequence whereof, I this afternoon again waited on the Captain-General at Head-quarters to take his orders on the matter. He requested me to advise with the Committee of Safety of N. H. on the business." There was evidently some misunderstanding about Col. Stark's commission from New Hampshire, for on the 25th of June, General Folsom write the Com'tee of Safety, referring to his previous letter, that Col. Stark has "made such submission as induces me to desire you to pass over said letters so far as it relates to him unnoticed."

Camp on Winter Hill, June 27, 1775

General Folsom reports to the Committee of Safety "Since my arrival here, the harmony and willing obedience of the N. H.

Troops gives me the most sensible pleasure. I have got them into tolerable regulation, and shall, as far as in me lies, use my utmost exertion to get them into the greatest good order and discipline, which is so indispensably necessary in an army, and still promote and preserve unanimity and concord amongst them."

July 1, 1775

The N. H. Committee of Safety addressed Col. Folsom, as follows, in part:—"It gives us great pleasure to find by yours of the 26th last month, that a reconciliation had taken place between you and Colonel Stark. We doubt not you will use your utmost endeavors to keep up a good harmony among the Troops In order thereto we agree with you that a due subordination must be observed. * * * * * We enclose your commission, and hope that the appointment of any other General Officer will not be expected. We are your friends and humble servants."

It has been stated by some historians that General Folsom and Colonel Stark became sworn rivals, and that the quarrel and contention between them led to the appointment of General Sullivan into the Continental Army and the return of General Folsom to his state. There seems to be no documentary evidence that General Folsom was willing to set aside his more important service as the chief adviser and commander of military affairs of the Province of New Hampshire, for services confined to the Continental Army. Envy, malice, or overweening ambition were not his characteristics—he was a man of broader calibre. There was no doubt envy and contention among the men who were striving for army appointments, but, true to what he had reported about the necessity of harmony among his troops, had he possessed a desire for command in the Continental Army he was willing to withdraw rather than promote discord at that most critical time.

That he bore no ill feeling towards General Stark is evinced by a letter he wrote from Congress, August 22nd, 1777, concerning the illiberal reflections cast upon him by some southern members—"which," he says, "made your Delegates sit very uneasy in their chairs:" "We stoutly defended General Stark, saying he had been in almost all the engagements to the Northward and distinguished himself while others were advanced over his head. We do not justify General Stark for making a demand of rank in the Army at this critical time, but we well know he has much to say for himself on that head. We informed Congress that we had not the least doubt but the first battle they heard from the North would be fought by Stark and the troops commanded by him and that I should not be afraid to risque my honor nor my life that they would do as much towards the defence of that part of the Country in the common cause as the same number of any of the troops in that department. Judge our feelings when the very next day a confirmation came of what we had asserted by express from General Schuyler giving an account of the victory obtained by General Stark and the troops under his command. We believe this circumstance only will make those easy who have been trying to raise a dust in Congress."

That he harbored no resentment towards General Sullivan we may judge from his order to Captain James Gage when the former was sorely pressed at Crown Point by the Canadians. He sent a despatch to Capt. Gage July 2nd, 1776 as Major General of the Militia in the Colony of New Hampshire, directing him to re-inforce General Sullivan at once, adding "as our lives and all that is dear to us depend on our stopping the progress of our enemy's army from Canada into our settlements for your own and your country's sake make no delay in pursuing this important business especially as there is the greatest probability of General Sullivan's maintaining his ground at that strong pass, and defeating the enemy, if seasonably re-inforced; which must disconcert them, as they cannot recruit again from Europe this year."

Besides his arduous duties as Military commander in organizing, equipping, supplying and directing the troops of New Hampshire. General Folsom was constantly called upon for civil service.

March 19, 1777, he was chosen on a Committee to amend the laws of New Hampshire.

April 1, 1777, he was again chosen and appointed a Delegate to represent New Hampshire in the Continental Congress with the Hon. George Frost Esq.

During this session, on Jan. 10th, 1778, he was appointed on a Committee of Congress, consisting of three of its members and three of the Board of War, "to repair to General Washington's Headquarters at Valley Forge and in concert with him to form and execute a plan" for "the promotion of good discipline and economy in the Army."

General Folsom was a staunch defender of General Washington.

In a letter to the Committee of Safety at Exeter, Nov. 21, 1777, after reporting important matters he adds a postscript, saying:—"I hope I shall not be kept alone here this winter." But he was directed to tarry at Congress until relieved by others: and after serving a year, Gen'l Folsom was again returned to Congress in 1779.

An extract from a letter written from Philadelphia to the Committee of Safety at Exeter, March 4, 1781, is well worth quoting: he says after reporting the usual proceedings, "Every one here has a Psalm and a Doctrine upon Finance." This shows that men and manners were much the same in 1781 and 1913, for the above remark might well have come from the Congress of today.

In February, 1783 General Folsom was again returned to Congress. The October preceding, he was made President of the Convention held at Concord to adopt the Civil Constitution of the State.

In February 1776, General Folsom lost his wife and his youngest child, Arthur, 2 years of age. In January previous, his daughter Deborah, said to have been the belle of Exeter, had

married John Taylor Gilman, the rising young man who had read the Declaration of Independence to the people of his town, and who rose to be the Governor of New Hampshire for fourteen (14) terms.

During this time of his private sorrow General Folsom was made a Justice of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas and one of the Councillors of the State, and he held the office of Judge until his death. In 1784, he was Justice of the Peace throughout the State.

The record of the public career of this most distinguished man closes in November 1788, when the popular vote was taken for the ten highest candidates for Electors in the First Electoral College for the first President of the United States, General Nathaniel Folsom was one of them.

He died at Exeter New Hampshire the place where he was born, on the 26th of May, 1790. in the 65th year of his age. A contemporary notice justly describes him as "exemplary in all relations of life, a faithful public servant and a sincere Christian."

His grave unnoticed and unknown for many years was discovered a few years ago in the old Exeter Cemetery, and the inscription on his grave stone—"Sacred to the Memory of the Honorable Nathaniel Folsom, Esq.," with no reference to his high military rank, is probably the cause of its having been overlooked by the patriotic organizations of his State. May it not now receive the marks of honor he deserves?

ELIZABETH KEITH HILLS,

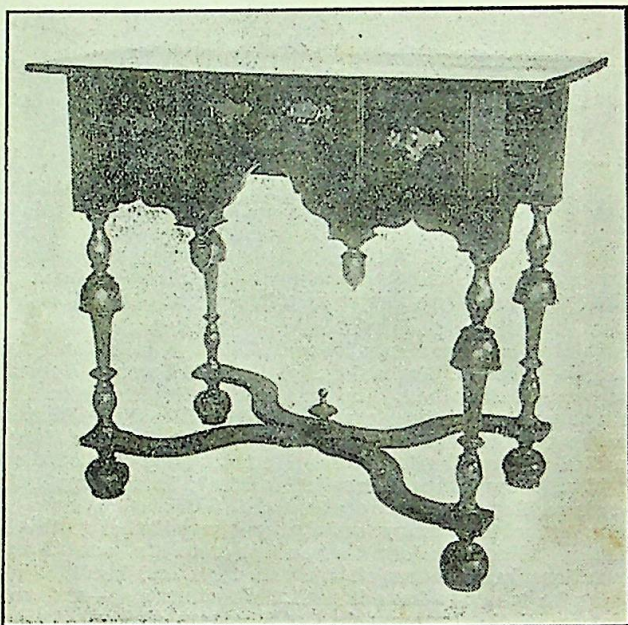
(Mrs. Francis L. Hills.)

THE HISTORY OF THE FOLSOM TABLE.

This table came from England with the Folsoms and Gilmans in 1638, and has always been called the Folsom table, but there is a well founded tradition that a tall set of drawers owned by a Folsom descendant, belonged originally with it; if so, it is part of a "low-boy." Its known history is as follows.—Mrs. Martha Palmer Baker, (now living in Lowell, Mass., aged 98 years,) daughter of Mahew Palmer and Mary Folsom Palmer (the latter in the 6th generation from the immigrant John Folsom) is cousin to my Father, M. W. F. Durgin late of Medford, Mass., and both were born in New Durham, N. H.,—When Martha Palmer was thirteen years old, her grandfather, Jonathan Folsom, in another part of New Durham, died and his widow gave the table to Martha, saying, "this table came from England with the Folsoms and Gilmans and it has been in this branch of the Folsoms for 70 years."—From New Durham to Dover, N. H., then to Lowell, Mass., then to New York, then to Virginia, then back to Lowell, the table has been taken as Martha moved about, (a treasured heirloom) till in 1903, having no children to leave it to she gave it to her cousin's daughter, my sister, Miss Annie E. Durgin of Medford, and in 1908 the latter gave it to me.—It is of dark San Domingo Mahogany, and the inside of the drawers especially shows its great age. Now how did it get to the New Durham Farm which Martha's grandfather Jonathan Folsom (5th generation from Immigrant John Folsom) hewed from the forests? (I have seen the spot where it sat in his farmhouse.) Did he bring so fine a piece of furniture to the wilderness?

On page 250 of Chapman's Genealogy of the Folsom's, is the history of this Jonathan's father, Lieut. Jonathan Folsom, brother of General Nathaniel and Colonel Samuel Folsom, all three sons of Jonathan, who was son of Deacon John Folsom, who was son of the immigrant. You will observe that Lieut. Jonathan retired in his old age to his son's farm in New Durham, died and was buried there. He must have carried the table with him. How had it descended to him? In the Appendix to the Folsom Genealogy is recorded the Will of Deacon John Folsom, son of the immigrant John, and grandfather to this Lieut. Jonathan. Deacon John therein gives to his son Jonathan, (Lieut. Jonathan's father) his house, farm and lands adjoining, but says he is not to have it until his mother dies—and gives to the latter all that is movable, both indoors and out, to dispose of as she sees fit—so it was natural that the furniture should descend with the house, especially as Deacon John also chose this son Johnathan to "settle all just debts and funeral charges, and pay the portions to his sisters and cousins and a sister's children," showing he was a favorite and trusted son—and that from him it should descend to his son of the same name (Lieut. Jonathan,) and that he likewise gave it to his son Jonathan. The latter too had a son Jonathan, but his second wife broke the record and gave it to Martha, and, as I have shown, it descended from her to me. If like all historians from Herodotus down I have supposed what I did not actually know

of the earlier history of the table, you must admit, oh kinsmen, that there is good foundation for my story of its descent to my great, great grandfather Lieut. Jonathan Folsom; and great grandmother Folsom declared that it came over from England with the Folsoms. Yours "In faith believing," I am the granddaughter of Betsy Folsom Durgin who was a sister to Martha's mother—Mary Durgin Gray, 147 Walnut street, Somerville, Mass. (Mrs. John H. Gray.)



The Folsom Table.